

PENNSYLVANIANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for Pennsylvanians. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in Pennsylvania. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in Pennsylvania.

INCOME: PENNSYLVANIANS ARE EARNING LESS TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO

- In 2000, the median income in Pennsylvania was \$ 46,020.¹
- In 2005, the median income in Pennsylvania was \$ 45,941, a drop of 0.2 percent.²

HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN PENNSYLVANIA HAS GROWN UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS

- In 2000, Pennsylvania had 1,022,000 adults without insurance (8.7 percent).³
- In 2005, Pennsylvania had 1,287,000 adults without insurance (10.5 percent).⁴
- Pennsylvania had 179,807 children benefit from the SCHIP Program.⁵

EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN PENNSYLVANIA

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in Pennsylvania was \$11,087.⁶ In 2005, it was \$14,771, a 33 percent increase.⁷
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in Pennsylvania was \$24,779.⁸ In 2005, it was \$30,637, a 24 percent increase.⁹
- Number of Pennsylvanians affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 147,850¹⁰
- Number of Pennsylvanians affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 141,776¹¹

GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in Pennsylvania was \$1.425 a gallon.¹²
- Today the average cost of gas in Pennsylvania is \$2.405 a gallon.¹³
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in Pennsylvania was \$1,761.¹⁴
- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in Pennsylvania is \$2,971, \$1,211 (68.8 percent) more than it was in 2001.¹⁵

SOCIAL SECURITY: PENNSYLVANIANS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in Pennsylvania – 2,405,080¹⁶
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in Pennsylvania – \$907¹⁷

IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: PENNSYLVANIANS ON THE FRONT LINES

- Number of Pennsylvanians killed in Iraq – 129¹⁸
- Number of Pennsylvanians wounded in Iraq – 945¹⁹
- Number of Pennsylvanians killed in Afghanistan – 12²⁰
- Number of Pennsylvanians wounded in Afghanistan – 31²¹
- Number of Veterans in Pennsylvania – 1,145,919²²

REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING PENNSYLVANIA'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS

- Only 1,218 estates in Pennsylvania paid an Estate Tax in 2004.²³
- Only 258 estates in Pennsylvania will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.²⁴
- In contrast, 308,000 workers in Pennsylvania would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.²⁵

CRIME: VIOLENT CRIME IN PENNSYLVANIA IS ON THE RISE

- Number of Violent Crimes in Pennsylvania per 100,000 residents in 2000 – 420.0²⁶
- Number of Violent Crimes in Pennsylvania per 100,000 residents in 2005 – 424.5²⁷
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2002 – \$15,860,846²⁸
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2006 – \$4,959,042²⁹

TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST PENNSYLVANIANS

The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Pennsylvanians.

- In 2001, the richest one percent of Pennsylvania residents each received an average of \$2,741 in tax cuts, while middle class Pennsylvania residents received only \$375.³⁰
- In 2006, the richest one percent of Pennsylvania residents will receive an average of \$39,295 in tax cuts, while middle class Pennsylvania residents will only receive \$670.³¹

- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of Pennsylvania residents will each receive an average of \$76,936 in tax cuts, while middle class Pennsylvania residents will only receive \$788.³²

The richest Pennsylvanians receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.

- In 2001, the richest Pennsylvanians received 6.6 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 18.1 percent of the tax cut.³³
- But, in 2006, the richest Pennsylvanians will get 27.5 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 9.4 percent of the tax cut.³⁴
- And, in 2010, the richest Pennsylvanians will get 48.7 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 10.0 percent of the tax cut.³⁵

Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Pennsylvanians.

- In 2010, the richest Pennsylvanians will receive an average of \$11,239 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest Pennsylvanians will be getting over 46.1 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.³⁶
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class Pennsylvanians will receive an average of \$48 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 3.9 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.³⁷

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